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# 1.949 F212 FAMILY LIVING

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Reserve

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION  
439 New England Building  
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## GROW TOMATOES !!

Tomatoes are one of the most important vegetables in the home garden and can be grown in all areas of the state. Careful consideration should be given to the variety in order to grow them successfully.

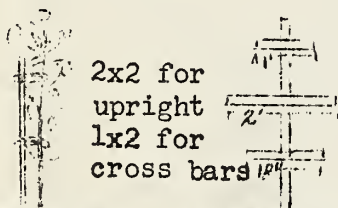
**VARIETIES** In eastern Kansas it is especially important to use wilt resistant varieties such as Rutgers, Pritchard and Marglobe. In central and western Kansas use heat and drought resistant varieties such as Sioux, Firesteel and Danmark. Use only certified seed. It can be obtained in practically all varieties planted in eastern Kansas, but perhaps only a few varieties recommended for central and western Kansas. Gardeners who do not grow their own plants should purchase local grown plants from a reliable plant grower.

**TOMATO DISEASES** in gardens where the soil is known to be infected with Fusarium (wilt disease) the tomatoes should be planted at least 100 feet from the previous year's patch.

Tomatoes are subject to leaf spot. This can be controlled by spraying plants with 4-4-50 Bordeaux mixture or one of the fixed copper spray compounds. For further information regarding tomato diseases and their control, refer to the leaflet entitled "Tomato Diseases Their Control in Kansas" prepared by Extension Service, Kansas State College.

**PLANTING DATE** Set out tomato plants after frost free date. Tomato seeds should be planted at least a week or ten days earlier.

**INCREASE PRODUCTION** In order to help the plants get started Mr. Amstein, Horticulture Specialist, recommends the using of a starter solution. For a starter solution use 4-12-4 fertilizer. Mix 1 tablespoon per gallon of water. Put 1 pint on each plant at setting out time and follow in about 10 days with another application. To prevent blossom drop provide a good windbreak and spray hormone on blossoms.



Stake Each Stem A good stake for tomatoes

**STAKING** Properly staked tomato plants insure an orderly garden. Lack of proper staking means that you are reasonably sure to have some wrecked and messy beds later in the season. A heavy rain or wind storm is likely to knock over tall and heavy foliage plants which naturally have stems not sufficiently sturdy to stand up under such circumstances. Use rags, not strings, to tie plant to stake.

**MULCHING** Mulching of tomato plants with old straw or hay (do not use shiny, new straw as the glare from the sun causes the tomatoes to burn) insures a good product - keeps fruit clean and tends to retain moisture.

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